

Minneapolis Redistricting Commission Minutes

Session of the Redistricting Commission

Thursday, March 14, 2002, 6 PM

Room 317 City Hall

Present: Commissioners: Trostel, Collier, Ferrara, Finch, Markus, Pettiford,
Schwarzkopf, Stafford

Redistricting Coordinator Susanne Griffin - (612) 673-2073

e-mail: susanne.griffin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Commission Chair Trostel called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

All Commission members but Commissioner Claypatch were present.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Schwarzkopf moved to approve the agenda. Ferrara seconded the motion. It was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

3. Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2002

Stafford moved to approve the minutes. Schwarzkopf seconded the motion. It was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

4. Public input on diversity issues

Monica Meyer representing Outfront Minnesota presented a memorandum with attachments, regarding the existence of a particular "community of interest" in south Minneapolis. The document was originally prepared for the State of Minnesota's Special Redistricting Panel.

*Brett Buckner representing Minneapolis NAACP and as a member of The African American Community asked to not have the Third Ward split by the river. The Minneapolis Urban League and the NAACP of Minneapolis is sponsoring a community forum to address **Redistricting on the City of Minneapolis: What will it Mean to Communities of Color?** on **Thursday March 28, 2002 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at Glover-Sudduth Center for Economic Development and Urban Affairs, 2100 Plymouth Ave N.*

Dorothy Roholt, secretary of West Broadway Business Area Coalition, spoke about the street being divided between the Third ward and the Fifth Ward. She asked the Commission to get opinions from the elected officials. West Broadway is a County Highway, which runs from the Mississippi River into Robbinsdale. There are 165 business on the street. There are 3 Council Members and 3 neighborhoods.

Andrea Jenkins representing herself asked for other times and places for input from the community. She lives on the Lake Street Corridor. She feels it is most effective when one Council Member represents both sides of the street.

Vanne Owens Hayes of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights would like the Commissioners' question published to give the public a chance to respond, which would result in representation critical to decision making.

Kari Neathery representing the West Broadway Business Area Coalition as a staff person said it was good to have three Council Members for the votes but it would be easier to just have to talk to one Council Member. She would like the commission to respect neighborhood boundaries. She supports the idea of publishing the Commission's questions before the next hearing. She would like the Commission to prioritize the people who will be speaking at the public hearing on March 21, 2002 to give diversity issues top billing.

Eva Young, who lives in the Central Neighborhood, would like redistricting maps and other information published on the Web and on Minneapolis Issues.

5. Legal issues Assistant City Attorney Mike Norton
Attorney Larry Cooperman handed out a packet titled Redistricting Voter Dilution Issues. There have been a lot of litigation over the years about racial guidelines. There is the Equal Protection clause and the Voting Rights Section 2B to take into consideration

Direction to Staff: Attorney should have a one-page summary of the legal issues that the commissioners need to follow.

6. New Business
Stafford moved to send out another letter to the same list used for this meeting informing the recipients about the March 21, 2002. Schwarzkopf seconded.
Collier moved to amend the motion to add all neighborhoods to the list.
Ferrara seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous voice vote.
Schwarzkopf moved to amend the motion to add business associations of Minneapolis to the list. Ferrara seconded the motion. It passed on a unanimous voice vote.
Stafford's motion with the amendments passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Direction to Staff: The commission needs the budget from ten years ago. They would like to know what publishing was done then.

Stafford said the Star Tribune would do a significant news article with a map.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 p.m.